

International Conference

Modality and Subjectivity in Language and Discourse

Neuchâtel – 22 & 23 September 2026

The international conference *Modality and Subjectivity in Language and Discourse* (MSLD2026), organized in partnership with the University of Bologna, will take place in Neuchâtel on 22–23 September 2026. Its aim is to examine the notions of modality and subjectivity through both theoretical and empirical approaches. The conference will explore how languages express points of view, judgments, and positions of the speaker-writer, as well as the linguistic forms of modalization, nuance, and speaker-writer degree of commitment.

Two plenary talks will be held by:

- **Marion Carel** – *École des hautes études en sciences sociales, FR*
- **Agnès Celle** – *Université Paris Cité, FR*

The conference welcomes a wide range of contributions based on theoretical analyses or textometric approaches, in synchronic or diachronic perspectives, focusing on French or other languages, including cross-linguistic investigations. Our goal is to bring together different methodologies and analytical frameworks to deepen our understanding of the boundaries and functioning of the notions of subjectivity and modality, as well as of the variety of linguistic expressions associated with them.

Thematic areas

One or more of the following thematic areas may serve as possible framework for proposals:

- **Enunciative linguistics:** enunciative markers; construction of point of view; polyphonic phenomena
- **Corpus linguistics and tool-based approaches:** analyses of oral, written, or multimodal corpora; quantitative methods for identifying speaker-writer positioning
- **Historical and diachronic perspectives:** evolution of modal or subjective markers; semantic or pragmatic change; grammaticalization / pragmaticalization phenomena
- **Comparative and contrastive studies:** cross-linguistic approaches examining convergence, divergence, and specificities in the expression of modality and subjectivity
- **Studies of discourse genres:** textometric approaches to modality and-or subjectivity; interface between genre and the presence of modal or subjective indicators
- **Theoretical linguistics:** considered models for the semantics of subjective and-or modal expressions
- **Discourse analysis:** speaker-writer commitment; management of intersubjective relations; discourse markers

This list is not exhaustive: any proposal related to modality and subjectivity, even outside of the themes listed above, is welcome.

Submission guidelines

The conference is open to the entire scientific community.

Abstracts must not exceed 500 words (excluding references). They should clearly present the research question, hypotheses, methodology, theoretical framework, expected or preliminary results, and relevant references.

Presentations will last 20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes of discussion. Accepted presentation languages are French, Italian, and English.

Submissions must be made via <https://msld2026.sciencesconf.org> by 30 April 2026.

Authors will be notified of the scientific committee's decision on 29 May 2026.

Practical Information

Submission deadline : 30 April 2026

Notification of acceptance : 29 May 2026

Conference dates : 22 - 23 September 2026

Lieu : University of Neuchâtel, Neuchâtel, Switzerland

Organizing Committee

Inês da Costa Ferreira (ines.dacosta@unine.ch)

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Scientific Committee

- Inês da Costa Ferreira – *Université de Neuchâtel, CH*
- Francesca Dell’Oro – *Università di Bologna, IT*
- Claudia Ricci – *Université de Neuchâtel, CH*
- Corinne Rossari – *Université de Neuchâtel, CH*
- Theresa Roth – *Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, DE*
- Linda Sanvido – *Université de Neuchâtel, CH*
- Ana Stulic – *Université Bordeaux Montaigne, FR*
- Chloé Tahar – *Université de Neuchâtel, CH*
- Jozina Vander Klok – *Simon Fraser University, CA*